June 19, 2015

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We, the undersigned elected leaders, write in support of the excellent renewable energy and efficiency measures you have enacted to date, and urge you to go even further by committing that 50 percent of New York State’s electricity come from renewables by 2025. This would make our state the nation’s leader in clean energy in the electricity sector where New York State already has a number of programs that can help us get to this target and beyond.

Your renewable energy and efficiency measures are showing the bright promise of such investments, including the NYSun initiative, the Green Jobs Green NY program, and efficiency improvements. In many of our communities, we have seen considerable interest in community solar and other efforts to move toward renewables, and know that there is still a great deal of potential.

These changes not only pose great opportunities for our communities and economy, they are absolutely necessary, given the imperative to address climate change by transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. Science is clear that we must rapidly reduce fossil fuel extraction and consumption, and increase renewable energy development, in order to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change. Clearly, Superstorm Sandy and Tropical Storms Irene and Lee demonstrate how tragic and costly more extreme weather linked to climate change can be. Some of our communities have already adopted resolutions calling for efforts to address climate change.

We applaud your wise decision to ban high volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State, rightfully following the science, which clearly pointed to significant harms to public health, the environment, and community character. We are very grateful for your wisdom on that crucial issue, and believe it presents a landmark opportunity to move toward the renewable energy-based economy we need.

We believe that committing New York to 50 percent of its electricity generation from renewable energy by 2025 is the next leap forward. Our state already generates 23 percent of its electricity from renewables. Furthermore, this would
complement the state’s greenhouse gas reduction targets, ensuring that those targets are not only met, but exceeded. Committing to the target of 50 percent of electricity from renewables by 2025 represents the bold, national leadership that defines New York. We look forward to working with you to move New York State toward renewable energy as quickly as possible in order to improve the environment, help address climate change, and bring new job opportunities and economic development to our State.

Sincerely,

Diane Addesso
Supervisor
Town of Worcester

Louis W. Allstadt
Trustee
Village of Cooperstown

Francena Amparo
Legislator
Dutchess County

Kathie Arnold*
Legislator
Cortland County

Don Barber
Supervisor
Town of Caroline

Bonnie Bennett
Mayor
Village of Aurora

Dave Bliss
Supervisor
Town of Middlefield

Rebecca Brenner
Councilmember
Town of Danby

Doug Bullock
Legislator
Albany County

Will Burbank
Legislator
Town of Ithaca

Carl Chipman
Supervisor
Town of Rochester

Carol Chock
Legislator
Tompkins County

Frank Coccho
Councilmember
City of Corning

John Codman III
Trustee
Village of Ossining

Leslie Connors
Councilmember
Town of Danby

Robert Daraio
Trustee
Village of Ossining

D. Chad Davis
Legislator
Oneida County

James R. Dean
Trustee
Village of Cooperstown

Larry Delong
Councilman
Town of Worcester

David Di Salvo*
Trustee
Village of Lakewood

Joseph Diamond
Trustee
Village of Upper Nyack

David Doonan
Mayor
Village of Greenwich

Richard Driscoll*
Supervisor
Town of Newfield

Robert Eklund
Councilmember
Town of New Lisbon

Herb Engman
Supervisor
Town of Ithaca

Paul Feiner
Supervisor
Town of Greenburgh

Susan Forrester-Mackay
Trustee
Village of Fredonia

Dominic Frongillo*
Councilmember
Town of Caroline

Anne Geddes-Atwell
Supervisor
Town of Otsego

Cindy Gieger
Legislator
Sullivan County
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>John Gill</td>
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<td>Pamela Mackesey</td>
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<td>Laura Malloy, Ph.D.*</td>
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<td>Kathy Millet</td>
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<td>Maryann Mills</td>
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<td>Sara Niccoli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carissa Parlato</td>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
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Chris Proulx*  
Alderman  
City of Ithaca

Chris Pryslopski  
Councilmember  
Town of Rosendale

William Reinhardt  
Board Member  
Town of Bethlehem

Martha Robertson  
Legislator  
Tompkins County

Beth Rosenthal  
Representative  
Otsego County

Amy Rosmarin  
Councilmember  
Town of North Salem

Max Ruckdeschel  
Commissioner of Education  
City of Syracuse

Bennett Sandler  
Councilmember  
Town of Otsego

Sue Sauvageau*  
Councilmember  
Town of Seneca Falls

Brian Seche  
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City of Kingston

Richard Shea  
Supervisor  
Town of Philipstown

Paul Shepherd  
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Town of Shelter Island

Susan Skidmore  
Mayor  
City of Elmira

David Sliney  
Trustee  
Village of Macedon

Kelly Smith  
Councilmember  
Town of Groton

Donna Stempniak  
Councilmember  
Town of Lancaster

Daniel Sturm  
Supervisor  
Town of Bethel

Kathleen Talbot  
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City of Peekskill

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Supervisor  
Town of New Lisbon

Elizabeth Thomas  
Supervisor  
Town of Trumansburg

Daniel Torres  
Councilmember  
Town of New Paltz

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Legislator  
Dutchess County

Damian Ulatowski  
Supervisor  
Town of Clay

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Legislator  
Sullivan County

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Town of Caroline

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Councilmember  
Town of Lewisboro

Jay Wenk  
Councilmember  
Town of Woodstock

Wendy Whetsel  
Councilmember  
Town of Putnam Valley

Kenneth Wishnick  
Legislator  
Ulster County

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Town of Caroline

Michelle E. Wright  
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Town of Ulysses

Gregory Young  
Supervisor  
City of Gloversville

Nancy Zahler  
Deputy Supervisor  
Town of Ulysses

Susan Zimet  
Supervisor  
Town of New Paltz

* Asterisks denote former elected officials